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Amendments to claims

1 (currently amended): An adhesive composition comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl acrylate monomers, alkyl methacrylate monomers and polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers, wherein said alkyl acrylate monomers and alkyl methacrylate monomers have up to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, said polymer comprising, on a dry weight basis of the total monomer weight of the polymer, from about 50 to about 98% of an said alkyl acrylate monomer monomers and/or alkyl methacrylate monomer monomers and from about 2 to about 50% of a said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomer monomers, ~~wherein said composition~~ lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker.

2 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 wherein the polymerizable nitrogen containing monomer is selected from the group consisting of an N-substituted acrylamide monomer, an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer, vinylacetamides, nitriles, or mixtures thereof.

3 (original): The adhesive of claim 2 wherein the nitrile is methacrylonitrile or 2-cyanoethylacrylate.

4 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 which has a Tg of less than about 10°C.

5 (original): The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the alkyl acrylate monomer is 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and/or n-butyl acrylate.

6 (original): The adhesive of claim 5 wherein the nitrogen-containing monomer is an N-substituted acrylamide monomer and/or an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer.

7 (original): The adhesive of claim 6 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide is t-octyl acrylamide.

8 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 further comprising a therapeutic agent.

9 (original): The adhesive of claim 8 wherein the therapeutic agent is a pharmacologically active agent.

10 (original): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 8.

11 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 wherein the adhesive serves as a carrier for the therapeutic agent.

12 (currently amended): A The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 10 comprising an adhesive layer and a backing layer, wherein said adhesive layer comprises  
an acrylic polymer prepared from monomers selected from the group consisting of  
alkyl acrylate monomers, alkyl methacrylate monomers and polymerizable non-cyclic  
nitrogen-containing monomers, wherein said alkyl acrylate monomers and alkyl methacrylate  
monomers have up to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, said polymer comprising, on  
a dry weight basis of the total monomer weight of the polymer, from about 50 to about 98%  
of said alkyl acrylate monomers and/or alkyl methacrylate monomers and from about 2 to  
about 50% of said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers, lacks functional  
groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and contains no post-polymerization chemical  
crosslinker, and  
a therapeutic agent.

13 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 further comprising a release layer.

14 (currently amended): A method of administering a therapeutic agent to a patient comprising applying to a body surface of a patient a the transdermal drug delivery system ~~comprising the adhesive of claim 1 and a therapeutic agent~~ of claim 12.

15 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 9 wherein the pharmacologically active agent is fentanyl.

16. (previously presented): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 15.

17 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein the therapeutic agent is fentanyl.

18 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim 1 comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate and an N-substituted acrylamide monomer.

19 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim 18 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide monomer is t-octyl acrylamide.

20 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 18 further comprising a therapeutic agent.

21 (new): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate and t-octyl acrylamide.